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First Annual Report of the District Nursing Committee

Bangor Federation of Women's Clubs

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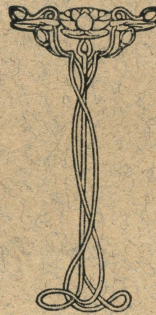
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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

of the

District Nursing Committee

Bangor
Federation of Women's Clubs



1914 --- 1915

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

The District Nursing service of Bangor is an extension of the work of the Health Committee of the Bangor Federation of Women's Clubs.

That it has well supplied a public need is shown in its steadily increased progress and prosperity.

Since its establishment, July 28, 1913, it has been supported by the Women's Clubs, voluntary contributions and the Christmas, New Years and May Day fêtes.

Miss Edith M. Bicknell, a graduate of the Maine General Hospital, as chief nurse, has by her conscientious effort maintained the most efficient service.

The District Nursing Committee desires to express its appreciation of the burden the Eastern Maine General Hospital assumes in its generous co-operation, in furnishing undergraduate nurses, who have cheerfully rendered service in homes where continuous nursing would not have been possible.

The work has been very materially aided by the generous donations of medical supplies from the Caldwell Sweet Co. The keynote of public sympathy has always responded with generosity when any need was made public.

The Press has been most courteous in its notices, meeting us always with willingness to advance the cause.

In order that the public may better understand the relation existing between the Eastern Maine General Hospital and the District Nursing Committee of the Bangor Federation of Women's Clubs, attention is called to the contract existing between the two organizations, namely:

"The Hospital agrees to furnish one competent chief nurse and one or two (as circumstances demand), undergraduate nurses and to maintain them at the Hospital.

"The Hospital agrees to furnish the necessary medical and surgical supplies at cost.

"The Bangor Federation of Women's Clubs agrees to assume all pecuniary responsibility for the maintenance of the service.

The following rules have been adopted for the guidance of the nurses; copies of which were distributed among the physicians and families employing the nurse.

The services of the chief nurse and her assistants are subject to call at any time by a physician.

The only restrictions imposed, are that the nurses shall not work more than eight hours and shall not attend contagious cases. Confinement cases of more than eight hours duration should be referred to the Hospital.

Detailed reports of the work, character of the cases and supplies furnished are given at the monthly meetings, which are held the second Saturday in the month, to which the public is cordially invited.

Respectfully submitted,

C. LILLIAN CHILCOTT,

Chairman District Nursing Committee of
the Bangor Federation of Women's Clubs.

May, 1915.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF NURSE

The actual work of a visiting or district nurse began in Bangor in July, 1913. It was organized for the purpose of giving to everybody, especially those who cannot afford the regular high prices of trained nursing, the benefit of scientific care during illness. Applications for the services of our nurses come through physicians, former patients, church societies, private individuals, the Hospital, the Associated Charities, the tuberculosis nurse, and the nurse of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. We work under the direction of physicians, and any patient unable to afford private medical care, is referred either to the City physician, or to the Hospital.

Maternity cases form the largest percentage of our work, and when we are notified early enough we visit the mother before confinement to instruct her in many things which insure a safer delivery and a better start in life for her little one. It is sometimes a difficult thing to keep the mother of a family in bed as long as her welfare demands, because the pressing needs of husband and children force her to sacrifice herself in spite of our instructions. The nurse usually finds such a patient in bed, but occasionally she is discovered in the hurried act of getting there, with the hope that her disobedience will not be detected. It is not unusual for the mother, baby, and entire family to depend upon the care of some little girl nine or ten years old during the mother's confinement.

Our interest in a family is not always limited to the patient for whom we are called. Recently a visit was made to a woman suffering from severe stomach trouble, and we had much to do to make her comfortable. After she was relieved we found that her aged mother required almost as much attention, the latter having been neglected during her daughter's illness.

Some families seem peculiarly unfortunate. Several months ago we were called to a confinement case, our first visit to the family. A few months later the baby was very sick with pneumonia which was shortly followed by whooping cough. Recently the mother

was taken to the Hospital for an emergency appendicitis operation, and since her discharge we pay her daily visits for dressing the wound. The father was obliged to have the baby boarded in another family while the mother was in the Hospital, which arrangement continues for the present. We followed the baby to its second home and prepared its food for several mornings, but we were not able to accomplish much because the woman in our absence has made no effort to obey instructions.

Another case that may be of general interest is one where only immediate attention and repeated visits on the part of the nurse saved the eyesight of a newly born child. We had to fight for that poor, diseased baby's eyes, but we had the happiness of succeeding.

Our chronic and incurable cases require much of our time and regular attention. Sometimes we visit them for months before their sufferings are ended, but the instruction we may be able to give some member of the family results in comfort and help to the patient as long as life lasts.

The Christmas season gives to us as to other relief organizations, the joy of carrying to the homes of the poor more than our usual service. Last year we had a Christmas tree for one family, and to many of our patients we sent baskets filled with clothing, shoes, toys, and good things to eat.

Every visiting nurse must believe that the underlying causes of much sickness and suffering are long hours of labor, especially for mothers of many children, intemperance, unhygienic surroundings, poor food,—in other words, poverty, ignorance and consequent vice. And in many cases when the need of nursing is over, the patient has to continue in the same environment. Fortunately, there are agencies at work trying to mitigate these conditions, so destructive to human health and happiness.

EDITH M. BICKNELL.

RULES

1. Each family or individual receiving the services of the district nurse, is to be given a copy of these rules by the nurse or physician in attendance.

2. The nurses respond to every new call, but they continue with the care of the case only under the direction of a physician.

3. One visit, daily, shall ordinarily be all they shall be required to make upon each patient.

4. Their visits shall not, as a rule, exceed three-quarters of an hour to each patient.

5. When unable to attend all cases, they shall devote their time to those who are least able to pay for their services.

6. Only obstetric and other emergency calls shall be answered at night.

7. Cases requiring quarantine shall not be attended.

8. Nurses shall not be required to give general massage.

9. They shall, so far as possible, instruct the family in caring for the sick, and in ventilation, preparation of food, etc.

10. Nurses shall in no way interfere with the religious opinions of their patients, nor discuss religious questions with them, neither shall they assist others in so doing.

11. Nurses are not allowed to receive presents from patients, but all those who are able, are expected to pay for the service given, according to their means.

The tariff is as follows: ordinary visits, five to fifty cents; all night visits, one dollar to two dollars. Surgical assistance, one dollar to three dollars. Obstetric assistance, one dollar to five dollars.

These fees are to be collected by the nurse, who will give a receipt for the Committee.

The members of the Committee respectfully request that all fees be paid at the time of the nurse's visit, if possible, thereby saving much time in keeping accounts, and unnecessary visits for collection.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RECEIPTS

1914			
May	14th	Cash on hand as per annual report	\$629.28
May	18th	Miss Jane Pickering, donation	\$ 2.00
	18th	Mrs. Percy Todd, donation	5.00
	21st	The Norombega Club	21.00
	27th	St. John's Charitable Society	10.00
June	12th	The Athene Club	107.83
	30th	Interest on deposit	.82
July	12th	Bangor Teachers' Club	25.00
Nov.	20th	Mrs. Charlotte R. Wood, Athene Club	10.00
	23rd	Iota Tau Club	50.00
Dec.	15th	Miss Jennie Paine, donation	1.00
	29th	Mrs. Charlotte R. Stupell	5.00
	29th	Christmas Concert and Dance	366.00
1915			
Jan.	2nd	Children's Matinee	106.50
	2nd	Nineteenth Century Club	25.00
	9th	Miss Mary K. Webster, donation	1.00
	13th	St. John's Commandery	20.00
	19th	Unknown donor	5.00
Feb.	17th	Home Culture Club	50.00
	17th	Mrs. Abel Hunt, donation	1.00
Mar.	1st	Ladies' Auxiliary, U. C. T.	25.00
Apr.	10th	Schumann Club	25.00
May	1st	Children's Festival	261.25
	4th	Norombega Club	20.00
	8th	Miss Frances A. Stetson	25.00
	14th	From patients	263.20
			<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 1431.60
			<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> \$2060.88

EXPENDITURES

1914			
June	16th	Transferred to Emergency Fund E. T.	\$400.00
July	13th	Treas. of Hospital for salary of nurse	250.00
	14th	The Rines Company	3.50
Aug.	1st	Dr. Smith of Portland	3.00
	1st	O. Crosby Bean	.50
Sept.	14th	Edith Ward, nurse, linen coat	3.50
Nov.	14th	Charles H. Glass & Co., printing	4.00
Dec.	29th	Charles D. Crosby, salary of nurse	300.00
1915			
Jan.	1st	Exp. of Christmas Concert and Dance	143.07
Feb.		Benson & Miller	.90
Apr.	12th	P. T. Dugan	2.05
	12th	Dr. A. E. Small, glasses for boy	1.50
May	1st	Expense of May Festival	94.88
	3rd	C. D. Crosby, salary of nurse	300.00
	14th	Edith M. Bicknell, Hospital supplies	110.00
	14th	E. M. G. Hospital, nursing supplies	9.00
		Cash on hand	434.98
			————— \$2060.88

EMERGENCY FUND

1914			
May	15th	Cash in Eastern Trust Savings Dept.	\$1006.90
June	16th	Transferred from general fund	400.00
1915			
Jan.		Interest on deposit	43.71
			————— \$1450.61

CREDIT

1915			
May	15th	Cash in Savings Department of Eastern Trust	\$1450.61

FRANCES H. NOBLE, *Treasurer.*

BANGOR, MAINE, May 17, 1915.

I hereby certify that I have examined the foregoing account of receipts and expenditures and I find the same properly vouched and correctly cast.

ARTHUR L. THAYER.

REPORT OF DISTRICT NURSING IN CONNECTION WITH THE EASTERN MAINE GENERAL HOSPITAL

[Extract from 1915 Hospital Report]

The co-operation between the Eastern Maine General Hospital and the Bangor Federation of Women's Clubs in the maintenance of a visiting nurses' work in our community approaches the end of the second year. Modeled after plans in successful operation in the Newton and Maine General Hospitals, the benefit of trained nursing is carried into modest and poverty stricken homes at the least cost to our citizens.

The annual expense to the Hospital in the maintenance of the nurses is estimated at about nine hundred dollars, but the experience gained by pupil nurses who, shortly before graduation begin outside work under many physicians, is most valuable.

When the undergraduate nurse "goes on the District", her tact, self-reliance, resourcefulness and sympathy are called upon as they cannot be inside the Hospital, and she is therefore better fitted for her post-graduate work.

The Federation of Women's Clubs is responsible for the salary of the Chief Nurse, and for the necessary materials. Without this support visiting nursing could not be maintained in Bangor, and too much cannot be said in appreciation of the hearty and sincere co-operation of the Club women.

Following is a summary of the work for the year of the Chief District Nurse and her assistants:

Total number of cases cared for during the year.....	317
" " " visits made.....	2347
" " " charity patients.....	165
" " " obstetrical patients.....	78
" " " surgical patients.....	18
" " " acute cases.....	95
" " " chronic cases.....	126
" " " physicians using services of nurses.....	33
" " " pupil nurses who have done District work....	11

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